(NPTEL) with total outlay of Rs. 20.47 crores was initiated in 2003. The scheme of NPTEL was implemented jointly by the Indian Institutes of Technology and Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. The Central Government has also set up the "Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Sciences and Technology and All India Council for Technical Education (INDEST-AICTE) Consortium" for providing funds to Centrally funded institutions for access to electronic resources and databases for which Rs.22.00 crores was released in each of the financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07 and Rs.23.00 crores have been provided for release during 2007-08. Similarly, the Consortium of Educational Communication (CEC), an Inter-University Centre of the UGC and the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) also digitize relevant study materials from time to time for access by students. In addition, the Information for Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre which is also an Autonomous Inter-University Centre of the University Grants Commission (UGC) coordinate the UGC-INFONET programme linking 149 universities for exchange of information including Electronic Journals (e-Journals) which are made available to these institutions under the programme.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Installation of Tsunami and earthquake indentification centres

2759. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any specific plan to set up Tsunami and earthquake identification centres in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the places where these are likely to be set up;

(d) the details of the seismic and flood activities in the peninsular region of the country during the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to combat the situation arising out of sudden floods and Tsunami activities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The project on Establishment of National Early Warning System for Tsunami and Storm Surges in the Indian Ocean was approved in October, 2005. The system is being set up at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad. An interim Tsunami Warning System is already working on 24X7 basis. The operational system will be in place by end of September, 2007. To detect changes in water level due to tsunami, 12 bottom level pressure recorders are being installed in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea and 50 tide gauges along the coastline of the country.

A Real Time Seismic Monitoring Network (RTSMN) is also being set up, with receiving stations at Hyderabad and Delhi, to detect, locate and monitor earthquakes. India Meteorological Department (IMD) is maintaining a countrywide network of 51 seismological observatories for monitoring the seismic activity.

Further. IMD operates a VSAT based digital telemetry system for close monitoring of seismic activity in and around Delhi.

(d) Over the peninsular India for the last three years, 3 earthquakes of magnitude 5 and above and 71 earthquakes of magnitude 3.5 to 4.9 on the Richter Scale have been recorded.

During the same period, 8 flood events have been experienced over the peninsular India covering States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Orissa etc.

(e) Ministry of Home Affairs and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) have made arrangements to combat the disasters from floods and tsunamis. The Ministry of Water Resources issues warning for floods after receiving rainfall forecasts from IMD. INCOIS issues warning about Tsunami. NDMA is developing guidelines to combat each type of disaster.

Requirements of food processing facilities in Rajasthan

2760. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated requirement of food processing facilities and the availability of such facilities in Rajasthan;

(b) the loss caused due to lack of such facilities;

(c) the total number of food processing units running in the State, at present;

(d) the total investment in and production by these units; and

(e) the details of financial assistance provided by Government during the last three years for setting up of new processing units and cold storages in the State and the utilization thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has not conducted any specific study/survey of the demand, availability, etc. of food processing facilities in the State of Rajasthan. However, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs for Technology Upgradation/ Modernization/Establishment of Food Processing Units. The Ministry has been implementing various other Plan schemes for promotion and development of food processing industries in the country including Rajasthan. Under these schemes financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid is provided for development of infrastructure, human resource development, promotion of quality assurance, Codex Standards and R & D and other promotional measures to encourage development of the food processing industries. The Ministry has conducted 23 training programmes for prospective entrepreneurs through the Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) and Food Processing Training Centres (FPTCs) during the Tenth Plan period. The Ministry has provided financial grant of Rs.840.32 lakhs for setting up, expansion and modernization of food processing industries and Rs.4992.87 lakhs for setting up of food parks in various locations in the State of Rajasthan during the Tenth Plan period.